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From: Robert Hathaway [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, March 11, 2022 9:12 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Public Hearing on Gun Bills - March 14th

Letter to the Legislative Committee Scheduled to conduct a
hearing on new "Gun Legislation" March 14, 2022

Submitted by:
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(Retired Connecticut State Trooper – Retired Firearms & Tool
Mark Examiner – Connecticut State Forensic Lab & Rhode Island
State Crime Laboratory – 45 Years in the discipline)

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ROBERT A. HATHAWAY
FIREARMS & TOOL MARK EXAMINER

Background Information: Retired Connecticut State Trooper with twenty two and a half years service. Assigned to the Connecticut State Police Forensic Laboratory for sixteen and one half years as a Firearms & Tool Mark Examiner. Retired April 24, 2010 from the Rhode Island State Crime Laboratory after eighteen years as a Firearm & Tool Mark Examiner. June 2010 through July 2013 – Principal Trainer – Firearms Section – Connecticut State Forensic Science Laboratory. Currently on the staff at the University of New Haven lecturing on Firearms Identification. Additionally, conducting private examinations for the defense. March 2014 to June 2014 – Training of Firearms Examiners from the country of "Qatar" at the University of New Haven.

Total years in the field of Firearms & Tool Marks – 45 Years.

I. Graduate of Manchester Community College.

II. Member:

A. Association of Firearms & Tool Mark Examiners. (**Distinguished/Life/Emeritus Member, #46**)

1. Past member of the Board of Admissions.

2. Past member to the AFTE Nominating Committee

B. Life member of the Connecticut State Chapter of The International Association for Identification.

1. Past President of this association.

2. Past member of the Board of Directors.

C. Served as a Member of the International Shot Show Safety Advisors Team

III. Awards:

University of Rhode Island – Outstanding Research Award – May 6, 2004

IV. This examiner has trained with the New York City Police Department Firearms Lab, The Connecticut State Police Firearms Section of the Forensic Laboratory and have attended specialized schooling conducted by the F.B.I. at the F.B.I. Academy, Quantico, Va..

V. Additionally this examiner has lectured at the following schools in regards to the subject of firearms identification – The University of New Haven, University of Rhode Island, Bryant University, Western Connecticut State College, Tunxis Community College, Manchester Community College, The FBI Academy, The Connecticut State Police Training Academy, The Rhode Island State Police Training Academy, Municipal Police Training Academy at CCRI- Lincoln, Hartford Police Department, RI, **Rogers Williams University – School of Law, The Naval Justice School at Newport, RI and Quinnipiac University – School of Law.**

VI. Court Testimony __260+__ times in State Courts in the States of Rhode Island, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Tennessee and also in U.S. Federal Court for both the Prosecution and Defense.

Note: Tennessee Court Testimony – Shelby County – Memphis, TN. Testified on two different occasions before Judge Joe Brown – case – shooting death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. Testimony given for the defense (James Earl Ray) at the request of the “King” Family. Team Leader for the Re-Examination.

Letter to Rep. Mike Winkler being resubmitted to the Committee reviewing Gun Legislation. March 11, 2022

Mike,

Feb. 9, 2022

I am once again writing as I have had time to review the new proposed State Laws, especially those regarding gun control. It is going to be lengthy to be lengthy and to the point. Every session new gun laws are proposed mainly directed at the legal gun owner and for the purpose of further restriction. The most interesting point or lack of in the proposed bills is there is no mention of laws to discipline the criminal using an illegal firearm. The sad part when you speak with those in law enforcement the same people are

being arrested over and over for illegal use or possession of a firearm and nothing happens. Word is that even a criminal convicted of shooting but not killing someone will on average serve eleven months in prison.

Common Sense (which no longer exist) tells you something is wrong here.

I agree the task force issue is great, but once again what will the resulting penalties be if any? This concept is not new, recently the City of Waterbury has utilized it with success and should be used as a model. It involves using the "ATF" as an additional tool. Perhaps we can encourage them to charge under Federal Law and maybe justice will be done.

The law proposed that really perplexes me is the one that allows an officer to request to see an individual's pistol permit. As I recall from my days and training in Law Enforcement one must have just cause. You cannot just stop a motor vehicle operator for no reason at all and say I want to see your license. You must have reasonable cause to believe a law has been violated. Do you really believe for one minute after the passing of the "Police Reform Bill" any officer in his right mind would take this action. They are all fearful to do normal interactions day to day now. The "ACLU" would love to have the first case with this law.

I know I have written to you in the past and have not declared my background when passing these thoughts along and I feel perhaps it is the time. I was a Connecticut State Trooper for 22 years, was hired at the Rhode Island State Crime Laboratory, served 18 years retired and was hired back at the Connecticut State Forensic Lab for several more years and have spoken on behalf of both sides of the bar - prosecution and defense. I retired from Forensic work two years ago after 45 years in the field. I have worked on thousands of gun cases in that career (including leading a team at the Rhode

Island State Crime Laboratory to review the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King on behalf of the King Family who questioned if James Earl Ray was the real shooter).

The next question I have is how much open public debate will be available if the legislature is going to be conducted in the sanctuary of each person's home and not in formal session. It does not sound fair to me. The issue must be addressed fair, equally in public forum and cannot be a one sided railroad job against legal gun owners. I question if even one percent of the legal gun owners in Connecticut have ever been arrested for a crime involving a gun. I say go look at the criminal's side and tell me their results.

One request I would make and that is on behalf of all permit holders and gun store owners across the State is please provide additional funding and staff to the Connecticut State Police Weapons Unit, they desperately need it. Weapon Permit holders are telling me they are mailing back their renewals well ahead of expiration dates and receiving the renewals beyond the expiration date. Your new laws are addressing gun stores and yet they encounter wait times to perform transfers. You want to add to their responsibilities, now it is time to help them.

In conclusion perhaps a committee should be formed to seriously look at how the States of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont who do not even require permits have the lowest homicide and gun crime rates in the country. Sounds to me they are doing something right. Maybe they take crime serious. Time to stop punishing the legal gun owners and concentrate on restoring good criminal law.

I am available anytime for a fair and valid discussion on these issues. Look forward to hearing from you. Phone number will be given on request.

Robert A. Hathaway
(Retired Firearms Examiner & Connecticut State Trooper)

Note: This is Representative Winkler's response and to date I have not had a call from him. Wonder how much attention will be paid by Committee Members on March 14th to the concerns of gun owners.

Time to prosecute repeat gun offenders and stop persecuting the legal gun owners.

Bob H.

Rep. Winkler, Michael

Feb. 9, 2022

to me

I would like to talk to you. While I do support taking guns from couples involved in domestic violence, I do think the citizenry should be armed.

This week is horrible. I have some time Monday or Friday of next week (the legislature tends to avoid those days of the week).

Mike Winkler

There is no greater exercise for the human heart than reaching down and lifting someone up. (Author Unknown)